

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A business application generation system ~~for automatically generating a business software application~~, comprising:

a central processing unit;

a repository comprising a set of meta data, said set of meta data comprising structured information on a business process, said structured information comprising information on functions operating on business process data;

a generation tool comprising a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element and said second tool being a meta data independent generating element, said generation tool generating, based on at least said set of meta data in said repository, a customized business process application for said business process; and

input/output means for treating said set of meta data in said repository and for invoking said generation tool, said input/output means being a workbench enabling customization of said set of meta data to generate customized meta data in said repository, wherein:

said workbench enables an invocation of said generation tool by  
initiating an import of said customized meta data into said passer element,  
said passer element processes said customized meta data for input  
to said generating element, said processing comprising:

interpreting a semantical content of said customized  
meta data; and

translating said semantical content of said customized  
meta data into customized business process data for input  
into said generating element; and

said generating element generates, on the basis of  
said processed meta data, program code for said  
customized business process application.

2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said set of meta data in said repository consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein said meta data entities contain information on an identification of said customized business process application, on object types and on object structures.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein said object types contain information on said business process data to be processed by said customized business process application and on said functions operating on said business process data.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said business process is a billing process.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said business process is a bonus payment process.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said business process is a commission payment process.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said customization enabled at said workbench comprises at least one of viewing, creating, adding, deleting, changing, and inheriting said repository meta data.
- 10.-11. (Cancelled).
12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said generating element further generates data objects for said customized business process application.
13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said generating element further generates a data base for said customized business process application.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method ~~for generating a business software application~~, comprising the steps, performed by a computer, of:
- providing a set of meta data comprising structured information on a business process, said structured information comprising information on functions operating on business process data;
  - customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element for generating a customized business software application;
  - importing said customized meta data comprising information on functions into said passer element of said generation tool;
  - processing said customized meta data imported into said generation tool in said meta data dependent passer element, wherein said processing comprises:
    - interpreting a semantical content of said customized meta data; and
    - translating said semantical content of said customized meta data into customized business process data for input into said generating element; and
    - inputting said processed meta data into said generating element.

15.-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 14, further comprising generating program code for said customized business process application on the basis of said processed meta data.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium, the computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method ~~for generating a business software application~~, the method comprising steps, performed by the processor, of:

customizing a set of meta data comprising information on functions via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element;

importing said customized meta data into said passer element of said generation tool; and

on the basis of said set of meta data, processing said customized meta data in said passer element, inputting said processed meta data in said generating element, and generating a customized business software application based on said processed metadata, wherein said processing comprises:

interpreting a semantical content of said customized meta data; and

translating said semantical content of said customized meta data into customized business process data for input into said generating element.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A business application generation system ~~for~~  
~~automatically adapting a business software application~~, comprising:

a central processing unit;

a repository comprising a set of meta data, said set of meta data comprising structured information on an existing business process and on functions operating on data of said existing business process;

a generation tool comprising a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element and said second tool being a meta data independent generating element, said generation tool generating, based on at least said set of meta data in said repository, a customized adapted version of an existing business process application; and

input/output means for treating said set of meta data in said repository and for invoking said generation tool, said input/output means being a workbench enabling customization of said set of meta data to generate customized meta data in said repository, wherein:

said workbench enables an invocation of said generation tool by  
initiating an import of said customized meta data into said passer element;

said passer element processes said set of customized meta data  
for input to said generating element, said processing comprising:

interpreting a semantical content of said customized  
meta data; and

translating said semantical content of said customized  
meta data into customized business process data for input  
into said generating element; and

said generating element generates, on the basis of  
said set of processed meta data, program code for said  
customized adapted version of said existing business  
process application.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said set of meta  
data in said repository consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein said meta data  
entities contain information on an identification of said customized adapted version of  
said existing business application, on object types, and on object structures.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein said object types  
contain information on said business process data and on functions operating on said  
business process data.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said existing business process is a billing process.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said existing business process is a bonus payment process.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said existing business process is a commission payment process.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said customization enabled at said workbench comprises at least one of viewing, creating, adding, deleting, changing, and inheriting said repository meta data.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said generating element generates, on the basis of said processed meta data, program code for said customized adapted version of said existing business process application.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein said generating element further generates data objects for said customized adapted version of said existing business process application.



32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein said generating element further generates a data base for said customized adapted version of said existing business process application.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method ~~for generating an adapted business software application~~, comprising the steps, executed by a computer, of:

providing a set of meta data comprising structured information on a business process, said structured information comprising information on functions operating on business process data;

customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element for generating a customized adapted business software application;

importing said customized meta data comprising information on functions into said passer element of said generation tool;

processing said customized meta data imported into said generation tool in said passer element, wherein said processing comprises:

interpreting a semantical content of said customized meta data; and

translating said semantical content of said customized meta data into customized business process data for input into said generating element; and

inputting said processed meta data into said generating element.

34-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 33, further comprising generating program code for said customized adapted business process application on the basis of said processed meta data.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium, the computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method ~~for generating an adapted business software application~~, the method comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

customizing a set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into a generation tool, said generation tool comprising a meta data dependent passer element and a meta data independent generating element;

importing said customized meta data into said meta data dependent passer element of said generation tool; and

on the basis of said set of meta data, processing said customized meta data in said passer element, inputting said processed meta data in said generating element, and generating a customized adapted business software application based on said processed meta data, wherein said processing comprises:

interpreting a semantical content of said customized meta data; and  
translating said semantical content of said customized meta data  
into customized business process data for input into said generating  
element.

38. (Cancelled).